

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 14408

E.O. 11652: GDS
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SUBJECT: MOODS AND ISSUES IN INDONESIA'S NEW REPRESENTATIVE BODIES

REF: JAKARTA 13822

1. SUMMARY: THE LEADERSHIP OF INDONESIA'S TWO NEW REPRESENTATIVE BODIES PLACE TOP PRIORITY AT MOMENT ON STRENGTHENING PARLIAMENT'S ROLE IN BUDGETARY PROCESS AND ON THE MPR'S "PERFECTING" THE GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT OF STATE POLICY GUIDELINES. SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES NOW SURFACING FROM THESE GUIDELINES INCLUDE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF MYSTICAL SECTS AND GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OVER YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS. THESE ISSUES HAVE PLACED THE LEGISLATIVE LEADERSHIP IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE BUT CHALLENGING POSITION OF INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN A CONSENSUS-SEEKING BUT AGGRESSIVE EXECUTIVE AND A DEFENSIVE BUT CONFRONTATION-PRONE OPPOSITION. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE'S COURTESY CALLS ON NEWLY ELECTED DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF PALIAMENT (DPR), WHO DOUBLE AS DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF PEOPLE'S OCNSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY (MPR), PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO GUAGE THRUST AND DIRECTION OF NEW INITIATIVES BY REPRESENTATIVE BODIES. ALL FOUR DEPUTY CHAIRMEN (REPRESENT-
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ING GOLKAR, UNION DEVELOPMENT PARTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND ARMED FORCES) ESPOUSED GENERALLY MODERATE GOALS AND CAUTIOUS TACTICS, WHILE EXPRESSING DETERMINATION TO STRENGTHEN ROLE F THE DELIBERATIVE BODIES IN THE GOVERNING PROCESS. PRODDING THEM ON HAVE BEEN CALLS BY A STEADY STREAM OF DELEGATIONS FROM A WIDE VARIETY OF ORGANIZATIONS, (SOME OF WHICH CAUSE LAST MINUTE CHANGES IN CHARGE'S APPOINTMENTS).

3. PARLIAMENTARY FOCUS APPARED TO BE LESS ON INITIATING NEW LEGISLATION THAN ON STRENGTHENING ITS ROLE IN THE BUDETARY PROCESS. PARLIEAMENTARY COMMISSIONS ARE NOW MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS IN EFFORT TO ASURE THAT COMMISSIONS HAVE GREATER ROLE IN FORMULATING BUDGET BEFORE IT IS OFFICIALLY PRESENTED IN WRITING TO PARLIAMENT. (OPEN OPPOSITION TO FORMAL GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS IS STILL CLEARLY TABU.)

4. WHILE MPR WILL NOT MEET TO ADOPT STATE POLICY GUIDELINES (GARIS BESAR HALUAN NEGARA-GBHN) UNTIL MARCH OF NEXT YEAR, ITS 48-MEMBER STANDING COMMITTEE HAS ALREADY BEGUN STUDY OF A DRAFT COMPILED BY A PRESIDENTIALLY APOINTED "COMMITTEE OF ELEVEN" AND FORMALLY PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NEW MEMBERSHIP. ALL OF THE DEPUTY CHAIRMEN RULED OUT TABLING OF COUNTER-DRAFTS BY ANY MPR FACTION AND EVEN THE MOSLEM DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MASJKUR WAS CAREFUL TO USE THE VERB "PERFECT" VICE "AMEND" OR CHANGE" WHEN SPEAKING OF THE OUTCOME OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE'S CURRENT WORK. OPPOSITION TO CERTAIN ASPECTS OF THE DRAFT , WHICH IS AS YET RESTRICTED IN CIRCULATION TO MPR MEMBERSHIP, IS, NEVERTHELESS CLEARLY DEVELOPING.

A. VICE CHAIRMAN ISNAENI CONFIRMED AS PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE THE DRAFT'S REFERENCE TO "BELIEFS" (KEPERCAYAAN) IN ADDITION TO "RELIGIONS", WHICH SEEMS TO BESTOW SOME CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICIAL RECOGNITION ON JAVANESE MYSTICAL SECTS AND HAS THERBY EXCITED A VOLATILE BUT HERETOFORE LARGELY DORMANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MOSLEM POLITICAL ACTIVITS AND THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE. MPR CHAIRMAN ADAM MALIK STRADDLED THE ISSUE WITH REASONABLE AGILITY WHEN HE TOLD AMOSLEM YOUTH GROUP THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO RECONGIZE THAT CERTAIN BELIEFS EXIST IN THE SOCIETY WHILE REJECTING THEIR EQUALITY WITH ORGANIZED RELIGIONS.

B. THE QUESTION OF WHAT IF ANY MENTION IS MADE OF THE GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED NATIONAL YOUGH COMMITTEE (KNPI) IN THE GUIDLEINES HAS RAISED THE BROAD ISSUE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER STUDENT MOVEMENTS. VARIOUS STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS HAVE GOTTEN WORD THAT THE GOVERNMENT DRAFT PROVIDES FOR CHANNELING OF YOUTH AND STUDENT ACTIVITIES THROUGH THEKNPI AND ARE MAKING THEIR OBJECTIONS KNOWN.

C. FINALLY, SOME GOLKAR REFORMISTS THEMSELVES MAY WISH TO JOIN IN "PERFECTING" THE GUIDELINES. VICE CHAIRMAN MASHURI, FOR EXAMPLE, TODL THE CHARGE THAT HE IS PERSONALLY PRESSING FOR GUIDELINE'S ENDORSEMENT OF INCREASED GOVERNMENT CREDIT FOR LOWER INCOME GROUPS.

5. IN SHORT, THE PARLIAMENT/MPR LEADERSHIP SEEMS AT THE

MOMENT TO BE CAUGHT BETWEEN THE RESIDENTIAL PALACE'S HOPES
TO INSTITUTIONALIZE CERTAIN OF ITS CONCEPTS IN A JAVANESE
CONSENSUAL MANNER AND OPPOSITION GROUPS' DETERMINATION TO
PROTECT THEIR INTERESTS AT THE RISK OF UN-JAVANESE CONFRON-
TATION. THIS IS AN UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION. IT IS ALSO A
CHALLENGING ONE, HOWEVER, SINCE EVEN A PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL
COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN DISAFFECTED ACTIVISTS AND THE
EXECUTIVE WOULD ASSUAGE ONE OF THE REGIME'S MOST PRESSING
POLITICAL PROBLEMS.
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